Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, SHUM

SUBJECT: 62ND ECOSOC: U.S. CANDIDACY FOR RE-ELECTION TO

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: USUN 1283 (NOTAL)

1. UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS COMPOSED OF 32 STATES MEMBERS.OF WHICH A SPECIFIC NUMBER IS ALLOTTED TO EACH OF THE FIVE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS. EIGHT MEMBERS ARE FROM THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER (WEO) STATES AS FOLLOWS: AUSTRIA, CANADA, FRG, ITALY, SWEDEN, TURKEY, UK AND USA. MEMBERS ARE ELECTED FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS. THE TERMS OF THE FRG, ITALY AND USA EXPIRE THIS YEAR. ELECTIONS TO FILL THESE THREE VACANCIES ARE TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 9-13, THE FINAL WEEK OF THE 62ND SESSION OF ECOSOC PRESENTLY UNDERWAY AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK. VOTING WILL BE BY SECRET BALLOT.

2. IN MOST ELECTIONS THE CANDIDACIES ARE ENDORSED BY THE REGIONAL GROUPS SO THAT THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES EQUALS THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES ALLOTTED TO EACH GROUP. UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE CASE OF THE CANDIDACIES FOR THE VACANCIES ON THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE WEO GROUP HAS BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON THREE CANDIDATES FOR

THE THREE VACANCIES. THE USA AND THE FRG ARE CANDIDATES FOR RE-ELECTION. FRANCE IS A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION (HAVING FAILED OF RE-ELECTION LAST YEAR), AND AUSTRALIA IS THE FOURTH CANDIDATE. ITALY IS NOT RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY OUR ECOSOC DELEGATION THAT OTHER WEO CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN APPROACHING CAPITALS IN PURSUIT OF THEIR CANDIDACIES. WHILE OUR DELEGATION HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING OUR CANDIDACY IN NEW YORK, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT WE TOO SHOULD MAKE APPROACHES TO ALL ECOSOC CAPITALS.

- 4. ACTION AND INFO POSTS FOR THIS MESSAGE COVER CAPITALS OF GOVERNMENTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF ECOSOC, A 54-MEMBER BODY (EXCEPT FOR CHINA, CUBA, ETHIOPIA, UGANDA AND THE UKRAINIAN SSR). ACTION POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO ADDRESS A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE OF THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCING THE CANDIDACY OF THE UNITED STATES FOR RE-ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE NOTE SHOULD REQUEST SUPPORT OF OUR CANDIDACY AT THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT THE 62ND ECOSOC, MEETING AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK APRIL 12-MAY 13, 1977
- 5. IN RELATED DISCUSSION OF U.S. CANDIDACY, POSTS SHOULD DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING POINTS, USING THOSE THEY BELIEVE WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE, AS APPROPRIATE:
- (A) THE U.S. HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE IT WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1946.
 THERE HAS BEEN A TRADITION THAT THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD SERVE ON ECOSOC AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES, SUCH AS THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HOPE THAT THIS TRADITION WILL BE MAINTAINED.
- (B) THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS THE UNITED STATES HAS ATTACHED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND HAS SOUGHT TO PLAY A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. IN VIEW OF THE HIGH PRIORITY WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS

GIVEN TO HUMAN RIGHTS, WE ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

(C) IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON MARCH 17 PRESIDENT CARTER SINGLED OUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS THE FOCUS OF HIS CALL FOR STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY. HE SAID, "STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY WILL HELP US ALL TO CLOSE THE GAP

BETWEEN PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE IN PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS."

- (D) WE REQUEST THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PROMPTLY INSTRUCT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO ECOSOC, PRESENTLY IN SESSION IN NEW YORK, TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDACY OF THE UNITED STATES WHEN ELECTIONS ARE HELD DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 9.
- 6. FOR DAMASCUS, MEXICO CITY AND THE HAGUE: USUN HAS RECEIVED FROM THE MISSIONS OF SYRIA, MEXICO AND THE NETHERLANDS NOTES EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. CANDIDACY. NOTES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES AT THESE POSTS ANNOUNCING OUR CANDIDACY SHOULD, INSTEAD OF REQUESTING SUPPORT, EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE STATEMENT OF SUPPORT ALREADY RECEIVED BY USUN.
- 7. FOR USUN: BECAUSE OF CHINESE PREFERENCE THAT APPROACHES ON UN MATTERS BE MADE IN NEW YORK, DEPARTMENT HAS OMITTED PEKING FROM ACTION ADDRESSEES. ON ASSUMPTION THAT CIRCULAR NOTE HAS ALREADY BEEN ADDRESSED TO HINESE UN MISSION, SUGGEST USUN MAKE APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP APPROACH.
- 8. FOR PARIS: IN EVENT FRENCH REACTION IS TO REQUEST SUPPORT FOR THEIR CANDIDACY, EMBASSY MIGHT SAY WE WILL BE GUIDED BY PRINCIPLE IN PARA 5-A AND SUPPORT FRANCE.

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